

Listing of Claims:

1-98 (canceled).

99 (currently amended) Isolated or purified antibodies which specifically bind with a neurturin polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide having at least 65% identity to is identified by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:8, and wherein said polypeptide promotes survival of superior cervical ganglion cells or nodose ganglion cells.

100 (previously presented) The isolated antibodies of claim 99, wherein the antibodies are polyclonal.

101 (previously presented) The isolated antibodies of claim 99, wherein the antibodies are monoclonal.

102 (previously presented) A method of preparing the antibodies of claim 99 comprising immunizing an animal with a polypeptide comprising at least a portion of the neurturin polypeptide.

103 (previously presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the polypeptide comprises an oligopeptide that is a part of the neurturin polypeptide.

104 (previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the oligopeptide is hydrophilic.

105 (previously presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the oligopeptide amino acid sequence is conserved within the GDNF/neurturin subfamily.

106-126 (canceled).